273. In order to provide training for the inmates in tailoring, three sewing machines were purchased. In addition to the above cottage industries, it was under consideration to introduce some more cottage industries with a view to provide training to all the deserving beggars.

274. Sixty-five acres of land were cultivated during the year by utilising the labour available in the colony. A small vegetable garden was also formed by making use of the sewage water. The sale of ragi, horsegram and corriander grown in the colony lands fetched Rs. 380, Rs. 1,046 and Rs. 172, respectively.

275. In the beggar colony, the first three classes of the primary school were taught in Kannada. Thirty beggar boys were attending the school. In the Adult Literacy Section opened for the benefit of the inmates, adult beggars males and females were taught to read and write. There were 45 beggars in the Adult Literacy Section.

276. The colony was provided with a Radio and Loud speaker set which was operated in the afternoons and evenings by the inmates at their leisure hours. Bhajana sets were also provided for the benefit of the inmates to perform bhajana in the evenings. The boys were allowed to play foot-ball.

277. The "Vanamahothsava" was observed by planting about 100 plants along the approach roads and in front of the dormitories.

(ix) Village Panchayets and Rural Development.

278. The number of village panchayets in the State was 12,610 (12,498).

279. The number of meetings held by the panchayets was 34,084 (34,165). The term of office of the members of the panchayets constituted under the Act of 1926 was extended until further orders. The new Village Panchayet and the District Board Act was brought into force from the 14th February 1952.

Demand, Collection, and Balance of Village Panchayet taxes.

280. Including arrears, the total demand of the Village Panchayet taxes amounted to Rs. 40,82,962 (Rs. 38,67,186), of which a sum of Rs. 16,11,109 (Rs. 15,60,994) was collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 24,71,853 (Rs. 23,06,192) at the close of the year.

PROTECTION

Financial position of the Village Panchayets.

281. A sum of Rs. 54,59,476 was at the credit of the village panchayets at the beginning of the year; and this with the income for the year of Rs. 15,98,509 (Rs. 15,35,652) amounted to a total of Rs. 70,57,985 (Rs. 68,68,065), of which a sum of Rs. 19,93,994 (Rs. 14,04,862) was spent during the year leaving a balance of Rs. 50,63,991 at the credit of the village panchayets.

282. Out of a sum of Rs. 23,25,000 (Rs. 23 lakhs) sanctioned for Rural Development Works, a sum of Rs. 17,29,458 (Rs. 20,14,295) was spent on rural improvements, rural water supply and rural communication works. During the year, the execution of Rural Development Works was retransferred to the Revenue Agency.

283. A length of 68·5 (95·7) miles of inter-village communication roads was formed during the year.

Drinking water wells.

284. The number of wells completed and pending at the end of the year was 39·0 (221) and 2,986 including those that were not taken up for execution (2,562), respectively. The number of villages that still needed a single or more wells was 3,541 (3,844).

285. The system of weekly labour was in vogue in 2,431(2,058) villages. The value of work done amounted to Rs. 3,56,935 (Rs. 2,39,874) of which a sum of Rs. 43,933 (Rs. 76,439) was adjusted towards Village Panchayet taxes. Two hundred and sixty-six (201) drainage works were completed and 146 (333) village extensions were formed. Unsightly pits were removed to distant places in 1,942 (1,201) villages. Topes were formed in 1,402 (2,226) villages. Tree planting drive was continued during the year also. A number of 51,83,906 (37,64,776) plants were planted and 842 (921) Adult Literacy Classes were opened.

286. The Rural Welfare Centres continued to work under the management of the respective Committees under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts in which the Centres were situated. The amount spent on public works in these Centres was Rs. 61,499 (Rs. 1,02,824) and a sum of Rs. 30,597 (Rs. 11,294) was spent for providing amenities to the members of the Depressed Classes in the Rural Welfare Centres.

287. The number of Taluk and District Development Committee meetings held was 955 (849). The accounts of 1,380 (1,521) village panchayets were audited.

288. Ad-hoc Committees were constituted to scrutinise lists of single and group panchayets to be established